

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1168**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Saldana**

February 22, 2005

---

An act to add Section 116294 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to public water systems.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1168, as introduced, Saldana. Drinking water standards: boron contamination.

Existing law, the Calderon–Sher Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, requires the State Department of Health Services to adopt regulations covering water testing, the monitoring of contaminants, the frequency and method of sampling and testing, the reporting of results, and other matters as may be necessary to determine and assure the quality of domestic water supplies. Existing law, in part, defines “public water system,” for this purpose, to mean a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption which has 5 or more service connections.

Existing law requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to perform a risk assessment and, based upon that risk assessment, to adopt a public health goal for contaminants in drinking water based exclusively on public health considerations. Existing law requires that, if adequate scientific evidence demonstrates that a safe dose response threshold for a contaminant exists, the public health goal be set at that threshold.

This bill would require the office to perform a risk assessment and develop a public health goal for boron by January 1, 2007, and would require the department to adopt a primary drinking water standard for boron by January 1, 2008.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 116294 is added to the Health and  
2     Safety Code, to read:  
3     116294. (a) By January 1, 2007, the Office of Environmental  
4     Health Hazard Assessment shall perform a risk assessment and,  
5     based upon that risk assessment, shall adopt a public health goal,  
6     based exclusively on public health considerations, for boron  
7     using the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 116365.  
8     (b) By January 1, 2008, the department shall adopt a primary  
9     drinking water standard for boron found in public water systems  
10    in California in a manner that is consistent with this chapter.